

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) A system including a software component comprising an input for receiving messages from other systems and an output for sending messages to a telecommunication service application, wherein the output comprises a message-based set of libraries capable of transmitting messages to the application, and further wherein the software component includes a formatter unit for processing received messages prior to transmission to the application via the message-based set of libraries to ensure that sent messages are in an appropriate format for the telecommunications service application.

2. (original) A system according to claim 1, wherein the formatter unit processes the received messages by filtering to thereby provide processed messages to the application in an appropriate format which includes only part of the data of the received message.

3. (original) A system according to claim 1, wherein the formatter unit processes the received messages by converting the received messages to thereby provide processed messages to the application in an appropriate format.

4. (original) A system according to claim 1, further comprising a plurality of telecommunications service applications and a plurality of formatter units, each formatter unit being adapted to provide processed messages in respective different formats.

5. (original) A system according to claim 1, wherein the message-based set of libraries is a message-based Application Programming Interface.

6. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein the input is adapted for receiving messages from the Internet protocol network and wherein the system further comprises a second output for sending messages into such a network.

7. (original) The system of claim 6, wherein the software component forms a gatekeeper component which has means to receive requests for the establishment of communication links from an internet protocol network, and means for sending into the network responses to such requests via the second output.

8. (original) The system of claim 7, wherein the gatekeeper component further includes means for decoding messages incoming from the internet protocol network into a

local representation of the gatekeeper component.

9. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein the software component further includes means for dispatching messages onto the formatter units.

10. (original) The system of claim 9, wherein the dispatched messages are in the form of a series of fields and further wherein the formatter units include means to retrieve values of some fields of a dispatched message to produce a message including said retrieved values.

11. (original) The system of claim 10, wherein the formatter units further include means for receiving messages in response to the sent formatted messages, and further wherein the software component includes means for handling messages which consist of a series of fields, and in that at least one of the formatter units includes means for setting a value of a field of a message handled by the software component in accordance with at least one parameter of a received response-message.

12. (original) The system of claim 3, wherein the formatter units convert dispatched messages into respective different languages.

13. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein that the message-based set of libraries is an Application Programming Interface capable of transferring messages which are in different formats.

14. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein the message-based set of libraries is adapted for transmitting differently formatted messages.

15. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein the software component, the telecommunications service application and the output are implemented on a tightly coupled stack running of the same hardware platform.

16. (original) A method for execution in a gatekeeper and telecommunication system which includes a gatekeeper unit, the method comprising:

receiving messages from other systems;

sending received messages to a telecommunications service application via a message-based set of libraries;

processing the received messages, prior to sending them, to ensure that sent messages are in an appropriate format for the telecommunications service application.

17. (currently amended) A method for execution in a gatekeeper and service telecommunication system including a gatekeeper unit which has an input for receiving, from an internet protocol network, requests for establishment of communication links, and which gatekeeper unit further has means to send responses to such requests into such a network the telecommunication system further including a service platform comprising at least two service units, each capable of deriving, from a message received from the gatekeeper unit, service information relating to a communication link to which said message is associated, the service units accepting messages in respective different message formats, and the system further including means for transferring messages from the gatekeeper unit to the service platform and from the service platform to the gatekeeper unit, wherein the method further comprises the step of formatting messages into said respective message formats of said at least two service units, this formatting step being carried out by at least two formatter units in the gatekeeper unit.

18. (original) A system including a software component comprising an input for receiving messages from other systems, and an output for sending messages to a plurality of telecommunication service applications, wherein the output comprises a message-based set of libraries capable of transmitting messages issued from said output means of the software component to the application, and further wherein the software component includes a plurality of formatter units for processing the received messages, prior to transmission to the application via the message-based set of libraries, to provide

processed messages to the application, the processed messages including only part of the data of the received message, and each formatter unit adapted to provide processed messages in respective different formats.

19. (original) A gatekeeper and service telecommunication system including a software component comprising an input for receiving messages from other systems, and an output for sending messages to a plurality of telecommunication service applications, wherein the output comprises a message-based set of libraries capable of transmitting messages issued from said output means of the software component to the application, and further wherein the software component includes a plurality of formatter units for processing the received messages, prior to transmission to the application via the message-based set of libraries, to provide processed messages to the application, the processed messages including only part of the data of the received message, and each formatter unit adapted to provide processed messages in respective different formats.

20. (original) A system including a software component comprising input means for receiving messages from other systems, and output means for sending messages to a series of telecommunication service applications, wherein the system further includes a message-based set of libraries capable of transmitting messages issued from said output means of the software component to said series of applications, the message-based set of libraries being activated by said software

component, in that the software component includes at least two formatter units for formatting messages into at least two different respective message formats for transmission to said applications via said message-based set of libraries.